John Coyle

From: John Coyle

Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 4:25 PM

To: MRains@rlslawyers.com

Cc: John Coyle; MonterrosaSeanZ953188@mceldrewyoung.filevineapp.com

Subject: Courtesy copy of federal subpoena **Attachments:** Subpoena_Vallejo_Police_Union.pdf

Attorney Rains:

I am aware that you have represented the Vallejo Police Officers Association in connection with investigations related to badge bending and destruction of property. Therefore, I wanted to provide you a courtesy copy of a subpoena served this week on the Vallejo Police Officer's Association.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

John J. Coyle

Partner



123 South Broad Street, Suite 2250, Philadelphia, PA 19109

Phone: 215-545-8800 ext. 103 | Fax: 215-545-8805

Email: <u>jcoyle@mceldrewyoung.com</u>
Website: <u>mceldrewyoung.com</u>

Uwfhythj&wjfx

Catastrophic Injury & Wrongful Death / Civil Rights / Dangerous Drugs & Devices / Medical Malpractice / Nursing Home Fraud, Neglect & Abuse / Railroad & FELA / Trucking & Mass Transportation / Whistleblower & Complex Litigation

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Civil Action No. 2:20-cv-01563

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 45.)

111 Amador Street, \	/allejo, CA 94590		puty Clerk
		on (date) 7-5-7027;	or
☐ I returned the sub	poena unexecuted because:		
Unless the subpoena	was issued on behalf of the Unite	ed States, or one of its officers or agents, I	have also
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es are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
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I declare under nenal	ty of perjury that this information	is true.	
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Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

	Eastern Distric	et of California
Monterros	a, as Admin. of the Estate of Monterrosa	
	Plaintiff))
	٧.) Civil Action No. 2:20-cv-01563
	City of Vallejo, et al.)
	Defendant)
	SUBPOENA TO PRODUCE DOCUM OR TO PERMIT INSPECTION O	ENTS, INFORMATION, OR OBJECTS F PREMISES IN A CIVIL ACTION
To:		, 1040 Colusa Street, Vallejo, CA 94590
	(Name of person to w	hom this subpoena is directed)
documents, e	duction: YOU ARE COMMANDED to produce electronically stored information, or objects, and	te at the time, date, and place set forth below the following d to permit inspection, copying, testing, or sampling of the
material: All	correspondence, emails, communications, messett Tonn, John Whitney, and/or the practice of b	sages, documents, interviews or reports relating in any way to
Place: McEl	drew Young Purtell Merritt South Broad Street, Suite 2250	Date and Time:
	delphia, PA 19109	02/21/2022 12:02 am
other proper	ty possessed or controlled by you at the time, da	D to permit entry onto the designated premises, land, or the, and location set forth below, so that the requesting party the property or any designated object or operation on it. Date and Time:
Kute 45(a), r	following provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 45 are a relating to your protection as a person subject to his subpoena and the potential consequences of a	ttached – Rule 45(c), relating to the place of compliance; a subpoena; and Rule 45(e) and (g), relating to your duty to
Date: 2/1/202		tor doing ou.
	CLERK OF COURT	OR MAGI
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Cler	k Attorney's signature
The name, ac	ldress, e-mail address, and telephone number of	the attorney representing (name of party) Scan Monterrosa, who issues or requests this subpoena, are:
23 S. Broad	St. Suite 2250 Phila., PA 19109; jcoyle@mceld	rewyoung.com; p. 215-545-8800; c. 610-291-9514
	Notice to the nerson who issue	

lotice to the person who issues or requests this subpoena

If this subpoena commands the production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things or the inspection of premises before trial, a notice and a copy of the subpoena must be served on each party in this case before it is served on the person to whom it is directed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(a)(4).

- 1		
1	JOHN COYLE, Esq.	
2	McELDREW PURTELL 123 South Broad Street, Suite 2250	
3	Philadelphia, PA 19109	
4	(215) 545-8800	
5	Attorney for Plaintiffs.	
6	IN TH UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
7	EASTERN DISTRICT (
8	NEFTALI MONTERROSA, ET AL.,	Case No: 2:20-cv-01563-DAD-DB
9	Plaintiff,	PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO
10	VS.	ENFORCE NONPARTY SUBPOENA FOR PRODUCTION OF
11	CITY OF VALLEJO, ET AL.,	DOCUMENTS
12	Defendant.	Date: February 7, 2023
13		Time: 1:30 p.m. Judge: Hon. Dale A. Drozd
14		Judge. Holl. Dale A. Drozd
15	PLEASE TAKE NOTE that on February 7, 20	023, at 1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the
16	matter may be heard, before the Honorable Judge Dal	e A Drozd Plaintiffs will and hereby does
17		•
18	move to enforce the subpoena served upon the Vallejo	o Police Officers Association.
19	Pursuant to Rule 251(e), because there "has be	een a complete and total failure to respond to a
20	discovery request," the Plaintiffs bring this motion on	fourteen days' notice without a joint
21	statement regarding this discovery disagreement. Cou	nsel for the parties met and conferred. No
22	party opposes this request. The motion is based on th	is notice of motion, the accompanying
23	memorandum of points and authorities, the entire reco	ord of the action, any oral argument as the
24	-	
25	Court may receive, and other matters that the Court do	cems just and proper.
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1	DATED: 1/24/2023	
2		Respectfully submitted,
3		/s/ John J. Coyle JOHN J. COYLE
5		Attorney for Plaintiffs McELDREW PURTELL
6		123 South Broad Street Suite 2250 Philadelphia, PA 19109
7		Philadelphia, PA 19109 (215) 545-8800 jcoyle@mceldrewpurtell.com
8		
9		Carla M. Wirtschafter Reed Smith LLP
10		1901 Avenue of the Stars Suite 700
11		Los Angeles, CA 90067 310-734-5253
12		cwirtschafter@reedsmith.com
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1	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>
2	I, John J. Coyle, Esq., Counsel for Plaintiffs in this matter hereby certifies that a copy of the
3	foregoing Notion of Motion and Motion to Enforce, as well as its attachments, including the
4	Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of the Motion was sent via certified
5	and electronic mail to Vallejo Police Officers Association at the address shown below:
6	
7 8	Vallejo Police Officers Association 1040 Colusa Street Vallejo, CA 94590
9 10	Michael L. Rains, Esq MRains@rlslawyers.com
11	TVITAINS(E) ISIA W y CIS. COM
12	
13	
14	
15	DATED: 1/24/2023
16	Respectfully submitted,
17	/s/ John J. Coyle JOHN J. COYLE
18	Attorney for Plaintiffs McELDREW PURTELL
19	123 South Broad Street Suite 2250
20 21	Philadelphia, PA 19109 (215) 545-8800
$\begin{bmatrix} 21\\22 \end{bmatrix}$	jcoyle@mceldrewpurtell.com
23	Carla M. Wirtschafter Reed Smith LLP
24	1901 Avenue of the Stars Suite 700
25	Los Angeles, CA 90067 310-734-5253
26	cwirtschafter@reedsmith.com
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28	

1	JOHN COYLE, Esq. McELDREW PURTELL	
2	123 South Broad Street	
3	Suite 2250 Philadelphia, PA 19109	
4	(215) 545-8800	
5	Attorney for Plaintiffs.	
6		
7	IN THE UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
8	IN THE UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
9	EASTERN DISTRICT C	OF CALIFORNIA
	NAME AND ASSOCIATION OF A SECOND	G N 000 015(0 D D D
10	NEFTALI MONTERROSA, ET AL.,	Case No: 2:20-cv-01563-DAD-DB
11	Plaintiffs,	MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
12	VS.	THE PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO ENFORCE A NONPARTY
13	CITY OF VALLE IO ET AL	SUBPOENA FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS
14	CITY OF VALLEJO, ET AL.,	DOCUMENTS
15	Defendant.	Date: February 7, 2023 Time: 1:30 p.m.
16		Judge: Hon. Dale A. Drozd
17		
18	MEMORANDUM OF POI	NTS AND AUTHORITIES
19	The Plaintiffs served the Vallejo Police Offic	ers Association (hereinafter "VPOA"), a non-
20	party, with a subpoena for production of documents p	oursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 45. In response, the
21	VPOA did not voice objections, ask for an extension of	f time or file a motion to quash. Instead, VPOA
22	failed to produce any responsive documents or respon-	d in any manner. This Court should compel the
23	VPOA to respond to the subpoena.	
24	Factual Ba	ackground
25		
26	I his case arises from the officer-involved s	hooting death of Sean Monterrosa by Vallejo
27	Police Officer Jarrett Tonn ("Officer Tonn") on June	e 2, 2020. Mr. Monterrosa was unarmed and
28	kneeling on the ground when Officer Tonn, without w	varning, fired his silenced military style assault

Case 2:2020xc-0-0355539AADBBDDccomment-659. Filed 002/24/23 Page 9.0 fo 124

rifle from the back seat of an unmarked Vallejo PD truck and through the windshield, striking Mr. Monterrosa in the back of the head and killing him.

In the aftermath of the shooting, the City of Vallejo ("the City") retained OCR group to investigate the shooting. That investigation and subsequent review by Vallejo Police Chief Shawny Williams determined that Officer Tonn's use of force was unreasonable, and this led the City to seek his termination. Through further investigations it was uncovered that there was a thriving culture of excessive unreasonable violence among the Vallejo Police Department, and that the department had a "siege mentality," with allegations of a badge bending practice where Vallejo officers would bend the points of their badge when they killed a citizen.

As a part of this investigation, the VPOA, in a letter written by their attorney, confirmed the badge bending practices but attempted to frame the reason for the practice as a celebration by officers of surviving a dangerous situation. Through more recent limited testimony in the Solano County Superior Court, the transcript reflects that the badge bending report includes testimony from former Vallejo Officer Tribble that he and Officer Gary Jones bent the badge of Jarrett Tonn.

VPOA has since remained evasive to further inquiry.

Plaintiffs filed their complaint against the named Defendants on August 6, 2020, followed by Plaintiffs First Amended Complaint on December 22, 2020, and Plaintiffs Second Amended Complaint on March 11, 2021.

On February 2, 2022, Plaintiffs noticed the City of Vallejo with nine subpoenas for production of documents from individuals and entities associated with the City of Vallejo or the underlying investigation of the incident, with one to the VPOA (hereinafter "the Subpoena"). The Subpoena requests all correspondence, emails, communications, messages, documents, interviews or reports relating in any way to Jarrett Tonn, John Whitney, and/or the practice of badge bending by union members. Counsel for the City of Vallejo and Plaintiffs met and conferred by phone on February 2, 2022. The City of Vallejo did not object to the Subpoena to the Vallejo Police Officers' Association

at that time, nor any time since then. The following week, on February 9, 2022, Counsel for Plaintiff, John J. Coyle, Esq., emailed Michael L. Rains, Esq., who, based on information and belief is Counsel for the VPOA, a courtesy copy of the Subpoena. *See* Exhibit 1. Mr. Rains never responded to this email.

The VPOA was formally served with the Subpoena on July 5, 2022. *See* Exhibit 1. According to the process server's affidavit, the subpoena was served personally on Christy Her, identified as "Deputy Clerk." *Id*.

Despite being on notice of the Subpoena for at least six months, to date, the VPOA has not produced a single responsive document, nor has Counsel for the VPOA raised any objections, nor communicated in any way with Plaintiffs.

Argument

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45 governs the issuance of subpoenas. Under Rule 45(a)(1)(D) a party may issue a subpoena compelling a non-party to produce documents and tangible things. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 45 requires the subpoena's recipient to produce the requested information and materials, and while they may object to all or part of a subpoena, the objection must be adequately supported. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(c)(2) and 45(e). The objection must be served before the earlier of the time specified for compliance or 14 days after the subpoena is served. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(d)(2)(B). Assuming that a subpoena is properly constituted and served, and no objections are raised, Rule 45 requires the subpoena's recipient to produce the requested information and materials.

Even if the subpoena is objected to, this Court may compel production if the issuing party shows (1) a substantial need for the material sought, (2) it cannot otherwise be obtained without undue hardship, and (3) reasonable compensation is paid to the person addressed in the subpoena.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(d)(3)(C); see U.S. v. CBS, Inc., 666 F.2d 364, 368-89 (9th Cir. 1987). However, because the VPOA did not object, let alone object with adequate support in a timely manner, there is no discernable justification for their refusal to comply.

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Plaintiffs are entitled to requested materials and information because they are directly relevant to the *Monell* claims at issue in this litigation. Further, the information is directly relevant to the central issue of whether Officer Tonn or anyone else at the time of the shooting was in fact in fear of immediate threat of death or bodily injury. Due to the nature of the information requested, there are no other means for Plaintiffs to obtain them.

Here, the Court should issue an order compelling compliance with the subpoena. The VPOA was served with a valid subpoena, and Counsel for the VPOA was put on notice of the Subpoena as well. The VPOA has failed to respond entirely, much less serve objections or file a motion to quash. That noncompliance has led all parties to incur unnecessary costs and deprived the Plaintiffs of relevant evidence.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Plaintiffs respectfully ask this Court to grant their Motion to Enforce the Subpoena to Vallejo Police Officers Association.

DATED: January 24, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John J. Coyle
JOHN J. COYLE
Attorney for Plaintiffs
McELDREW PURTELL
123 South Broad Street
Suite 2250
Philadelphia, PA 19109
(215) 545-8800
jcoyle@mceldrewpurtell.com

Carla M. Wirtschafter Reed Smith LLP 1901 Avenue of the Stars Suite 700 Los Angeles, CA 90067 310-734-5253 cwirtschafter@reedsmith.com

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7	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
8	FOR THE EASTERN I	DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
9			
10	NEFTALI MONTERROSA, et al.,	No. 2:20-cv-1563 TLN DB	
11	Plaintiffs,		
12	v.	<u>ORDER</u>	
13	CITY OF VALLEJO, et al.,		
14	Defendants.		
15			
16	On January 24, 2023, plaintiffs filed a motion to compel. (ECF No. 59.) On February 8,		
17	2023, plaintiffs noticed the motion for hearing before the undersigned on March 10, 2023,		
18	pursuant to Local Rule 302(c)(1). (ECF No. 61.) Plaintiffs' motion asserts that plaintiffs served		
19	non-party Vallejo Police Officers Association ("VPOA") with a subpoena for production of		
20	documents on July 5, 2022. (ECF No. 59 at 6.) "VPOA has not produced a single responsive		
21	document, nor has Counsel for the VPOA raised any objections, nor communicated in any way		
22	with Plaintiffs." ² (<u>Id.</u>)		
23			
24			
25	The undersigned finds plaintiffs' motion ovid	table for recolution without a hagring appropriate	
26	Local Rule 230(g).	table for resolution without a hearing pursuant to	
2728	² Plaintiff also noticed defendant City of Valle City of Vallejo did not object" to the subpoend	` <u> </u>	
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1	"A Rule 45 subpoena is the only discovery method by which information may be obtained		
2	directly from a nonparty." F. Subpoena, RUTTER GROUP PRAC. GUIDE FED. CIV. PRO. BEFORE		
3	TRIAL, Ch. 11(IV)-F. A copy of plaintiffs' motion was served on the VPOA and the defendants.		
4	(ECF No. 59.) Pursuant to Local Rule 251(e) any response to plaintiffs' motion was to be filed		
5	on or before March 3, 2023. No response to the motion was filed. After reviewing plaintiffs'		
6	briefing, and given the total failure to respond, the undersigned finds good cause to grant		
7	plaintiffs' motion.		
8	Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:		
9	1. Plaintiffs' unopposed January 24, 2023 motion to compel (ECF No. 59) is granted;		
10	2. The March 10, 2023 hearing of plaintiffs' motion is vacated; and		
11	3. Within seven days of the date of this order VPOA shall provide the responsive		
12	discovery without objection.		
13	DATED: March 7, 2023 /s/ DEBORAH BARNES UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE		
14	UNITED STATES MADISTRATE JUDGE		
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27	DLB:6 DB/orders/orders.civil/monterrosa1563 mtc.grnt.ord		

Case 2:20-cv-01563-DAD-DB Document 68-1 Filed 08/28/23 Page 18 of 24

From: Michael Rains

To: <u>Amanda Jonas Lorentson</u>
Cc: <u>John Coyle; Sharon Abrahamson</u>

Subject: RE: VPOA Subpoena

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:48:46 PM

Attachments: image016.png

image007.png image009.png image011.png image013.png image015.png

Amanda: Following up on my earlier email, I have talked to Michael Nichelini, who is the President of the Vallejo Police Officer's Association. He plans to call you tomorrow to discuss this matter further, and shed some light, I think, on the issue of whether the VPOA was ever "served" with a Subpoena to produce records. As to the email from John Coyle dated February 9, 2022 addressed to me, to the best of my memory, I believe when I saw the email, even though I did not represent the VPOA in connection with this litigation, and only represented individual officers who were being interviewed about "badge bending," I contacted the secretary to the Police Association to see if they had been served recently with a Subpoena for records or documents related to the Monterrosa case (since the proof of service attached to my "courtesy copy" did not reflect actual service on the VPOA), and was advised they had not been served with such a subpoena. I assume that is why a further attempt to serve the VPOA occurred in July, 2022. Lt. Nichelini was going to check on some other issues before calling you tomorrow to discuss this matter.

Michael L. Rains Attorney at Law Rains Lucia Stern St Phalle & Silver, PC Phone 925.609.1699 Fax 925.609.1690 www.RLSlawyers.com

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privileges applicable to this email and any attachments are expressly reserved.

From: Amanda Jonas Lorentson <alorentson@mceldrewpurtell.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 6:33 AM **To:** Michael Rains <mrains@rlslawyers.com> **Cc:** John Coyle <jcoyle@mceldrewpurtell.com>

Subject: VPOA Subpoena

Importance: High

Mr. Rains,

I am sending you a copy of a recent order that was entered against the Vallejo Police Officers' Association, compelling production of documents sought through a subpoena that was issued last year. I am bringing this to your attention since you have represented the VPOA in recent matters including the badge bending investigation. However, if you are not the correct point of contact, please kindly direct me to that person and I will follow up with them instead.

Thank you and have a great day,

Amanda

Amanda Jonas Lorentson, Esq.

Trial Lawyer
McEldrew Purtell

- ☑ alorentson@mceldrewpurtell.com
- 215.545.8800
- **1** 716.868.5053
- <u>115.545.8805</u>
- 123 S. Broad St., Ste. 2250, Philadelphia, PA 19109

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Attorneys Licensed in PA, NJ, NY, DC, TX

Practice Areas – Catastrophic Injury & Wrongful Death:

Birth Injury / Brain Injury / Nursing Home Abuse, Neglect & Fraud / Trucking, Commercial Vehicle & Ride Share / Excessive Force, Police Shootings & In-Custody Deaths / Premises Liability, Negligent Security & Dram Shop / Products Liability / Railroad & FELA / Medical Malpractice

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this email is privileged and confidential information intended for the use of the addressee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient. You are hereby

From: <u>Vallejo POA</u>

To: Amanda Jonas Lorentson; John Coyle
Subject: Improper/Incomplete Service
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 9:07:43 PM

Ms. Lorenston:

I left you a message on March 9, 2023, at around 9:30 AM. To date, my call has not been returned.

I am in receipt of two letters from you. One dated, February 8, 2023, and one dated March 8, 2023. These are the only two communications the VPOA has received regarding this matter.

First and foremost, the VPOA has not been served with a valid subpoena - or any subpoena for that matter. The proof of service you included in your correspondence clearly indicates that service was made to someone I have never heard of (Christy Her) and to the Police Department at 111 Amador St. We are NOT the same entity as the Police Department. We do NOT have an office at 111 Amador St. We do NOT conduct business out of 111 Amador St. And, as you appear to know based on the two letters we received from you, our office is located at 1040 Colusa St. Further, the process server, Kittleson, has likely been to our office, knows that we are a separate entity and did you a disservice by delivering the notice to the incorrect location/person.

Additionally, halving our name trashed in the media for "failing to respond to a subpoena" (that likely was from false information provided by your office) is damaging to our name and relationships within the City and community. Your office never called, never emailed and sent correspondence to the wrong place. Our contact is easily available with a simple google search. Your office either purposely sought to create more drama around this case or were simple deficient in your efforts to contact us and act in good faith.

Finally, you seem to lean on the fact that you contacted Michael Rains as "our attorney." Mr. Rains is "an" attorney (and a very good one) but he is not the "attorney of record" for THE VPOA. We use several attorneys from different law firms depending on the type of issue we are having. For you to assume Mr. Rains represents the VPOA singularly and as a whole, is not accurate. Additionally, your insistence on contacting him has incurred us legal expenses for his time in responding to you. I have advised him not to do so anymore on behalf of the VPOA if contacted by your office in the future.

So where does this leave us? If you plan to continue looking for records from the VPOA, I suggest you serve a proper subpoena. If this had been handled correctly from the beginning, I could have simply told you we do not have any responsive records. Unfortunately, your office has made this adversarial - either by design or by of due diligence.

Cordially,

Michael Nichelini President Vallejo Police Officers' Association (707) 644-3913 - vallejopoa.org

Vice President Vallejo Police Activities League

Case 2:20-cv-01563-DAD-DB Document 68-1 Filed 08/28/23 Page 24 of 24

AO 88B (Rev. 02/14) Subpoena to Produce Documents, Information, or Objects or to Permit Inspection of Premises in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No. 2:20-cv-01563

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 45.)

Nichelini at 2023; or	his residence. Mr. Nichelini stated his na	med individual as follows: Personally accepted by Michael ume and matched the photo provided on (date) Tue, Jul 18
I returned th	e subpoena unexecuted because:	
		es, or one of its officers or agents, I have also tendered to the lowed by law, in the amount of \$
My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$ \$0.00.
I declare under pena Date: 7/19/23		Server's signature n Wallace, Process Server - 1670, Costa County Printed name and title St G Emc(Son Apt 5 oakland, Ca 940)

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

Successful Attempt: Jul 18, 2023, 8:15 pm CDT at 1400 Technology Ln, Apt. 1412, Petaluma, CA 94954 received by Vallejo Police Officers' Association, Attn: Michael Nichelini.

Personally accepted by Michael Nichelini at his residence. Mr. Nichelini stated his name and matched the photo provided